



Lower Paxton Township **Police Department**



LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
CIVILIAN SUPPORT STAFF

2012 Annual Report



An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency
Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission

VISION STATEMENT

The Lower Paxton Police Department will be the best provider of municipal police services in the Commonwealth. Innovation, accountability, and partnerships will be our hallmarks for accomplishing our mission.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lower Paxton Police Department is to provide professional and ethical law enforcement services that ensure the preservation of peace and the highest quality of life in our community. We will accomplish our mission by:

- *Respecting the rights of citizens: Treating all people with the dignity and respect they are entitled regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, or socio-economic status.*
- *Developing community partnerships: Establishing our membership in the community by employing community oriented, problem solving, and proactive policing methods.*
- *Being a learning organization: Quickly adapting our goals and operations to meet our community's changing needs and demand for services, thereby ensuring the Department's priorities match the community's expectations.*
- *Acknowledging our duty: Constantly recognizing our sole purpose for existence is to serve our community and its citizens who are the source of our authority. We will focus on quality service, accept accountability, and follow-up relentlessly.*

CORE VALUES

The core values of the Lower Paxton Police Department that will guide our actions in the pursuit of fulfilling our mission are:

- *Respecting the value of human life and protecting civil rights.*
- *Protecting the lives, safety, and property of our fellow citizens.*
- *Fighting crime through prevention and aggressively pursuing violators.*
- *Taking ownership of and solving neighborhood problems.*
- *Maintaining the highest standard of integrity.*
- *Recognizing that our personnel are our greatest assets.*
- *Managing our resources in a safe, efficient, and effective manner.*

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DAVID J. JOHNSON

INTRODUCTION

The Lower Paxton Police Department continued its commitment to providing professional police services to our community in 2012. Since the Department's creation in 1958, our mission has remained unchanged: "ensure the preservation of peace and the highest quality of life in our community." The Department takes great pride in being a learning organization. Both external issues in the community and internal issues in the Department impact on the effective delivery of police services. The Department is committed to identifying external and internal changes and implementing innovative methods to effectively adapt to the changing conditions.

From 1958 through 2008, the Department grew to sixty-two (62) sworn police officers; however, economic conditions in 2009 required a complete and thorough review of all programs as well as the deployment of personnel. Through retirements and resignations, the total number of sworn police officers decreased to fifty-three (53) in 2012.

The Department is comprised of three divisions: Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Administrative. The 2012 authorized staffing level includes the Director of Public Safety, three lieutenants, six sergeants, six corporals, thirty-one officers, seven detectives, one community service officer and six records management personnel.

During the past year we continued to focus our resources and efforts on addressing crime reduction and the ongoing concerns of our residents with respect to traffic and pedestrian safety. Through these efforts, total crime reports for 2102 totaled 2,660 which is an 8.34% drop over the 2,902 crimes reported in 2011. Our Part 1 crimes dropped more than 13% from 1,345 in 2011 to 1,166 in 2012. In addition, our reportable traffic crashes dropped 11% from 347 in 2011 to 309 in 2012 and our non-reportable crashes dropped over 18% from 573 in 2011 to 465 in 2012.

The Police Departments outstanding accomplishments represented in this years Annual Report were only made possible through the exemplary performance of the professional and dedicated men and women who make up this Department. Additionally, accomplishing our mission is only possible because of the strong support provided by the Township Manager and the Board of Supervisors.

As we begin 2013 we are still faced with significant economic challenges. The Department will continue to identify ways to improve our overall efficiency while always striving to provide the best possible service to the public. We will always endeavor to do the right thing, at the right time, and for the right reasons.

David J. Johnson

Director of Public Safety

DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL ROSTER

DIRECTOR

David Johnson

LIEUTENANTS

Lt. Mark Zerbe

Lt. Gary Seefeldt

Lt. Ronald Gramigni

SERGEANTS

Sergeant Greg Taylor

Sergeant Tom Waller

Sergeant Tim Hicks

Sergeant Curt McCoy

Sergeant Leo Zuvich

Sergeant Justin DePasqua

CORPORALS

Corporal Todd Witmer

Corporal Gregory Sumbury

Corporal Tim Puchalski

Corporal Rich Needham

Corporal Tom Bell

Corporal Steve Cover

POLICE OFFICERS

Officer Scott Starr

Officer Charles Farrell

Officer Ralph Palm

Officer Stephen Alcorn

Officer Donald McCurdy

Officer Chris Vogel

Officer Kevin Roland

Officer Daniel Smeck

Officer luAnna Brook

Officer Douglas Petras

Officer John Albright

Officer Walter Cook

Officer Gareth Kauffman

Officer Karl Chortanoff

Officer Chad Miller

Officer Gregory Geib

Officer Brian McIntyre

Officer Nathan Larsen

Officer Thomas Eckenrode

Officer Zethan Weary

Officer Gregory Langley

Officer Steven Wertz

Officer David Shifflett

POLICE OFFICERS

cont:

Officer Hallie Miller

Officer Zach

Fehrenbach

Officer Bryan Ryder

Officer Brian Egli

Officer William Wable

Officer Dhenin Brock

Officer Brian Guarnieri

DETECTIVES

Detective Mark

Brumaghim

Detective Gary Flythe

Detective Jim

Glucksman

Detective Autumn

Lupey

Detective Jeffrey

Corcoran

Detective Doug Fisher

Evid. Tech. John

McPhillips

RECORDS and ADMINISTRATIVE

Susan Katz

Administrative

Supervisor

Fran McPhillips

Sonia Murphy

Department Secretaries

Sally Humbert

Michelle Kwasnoski

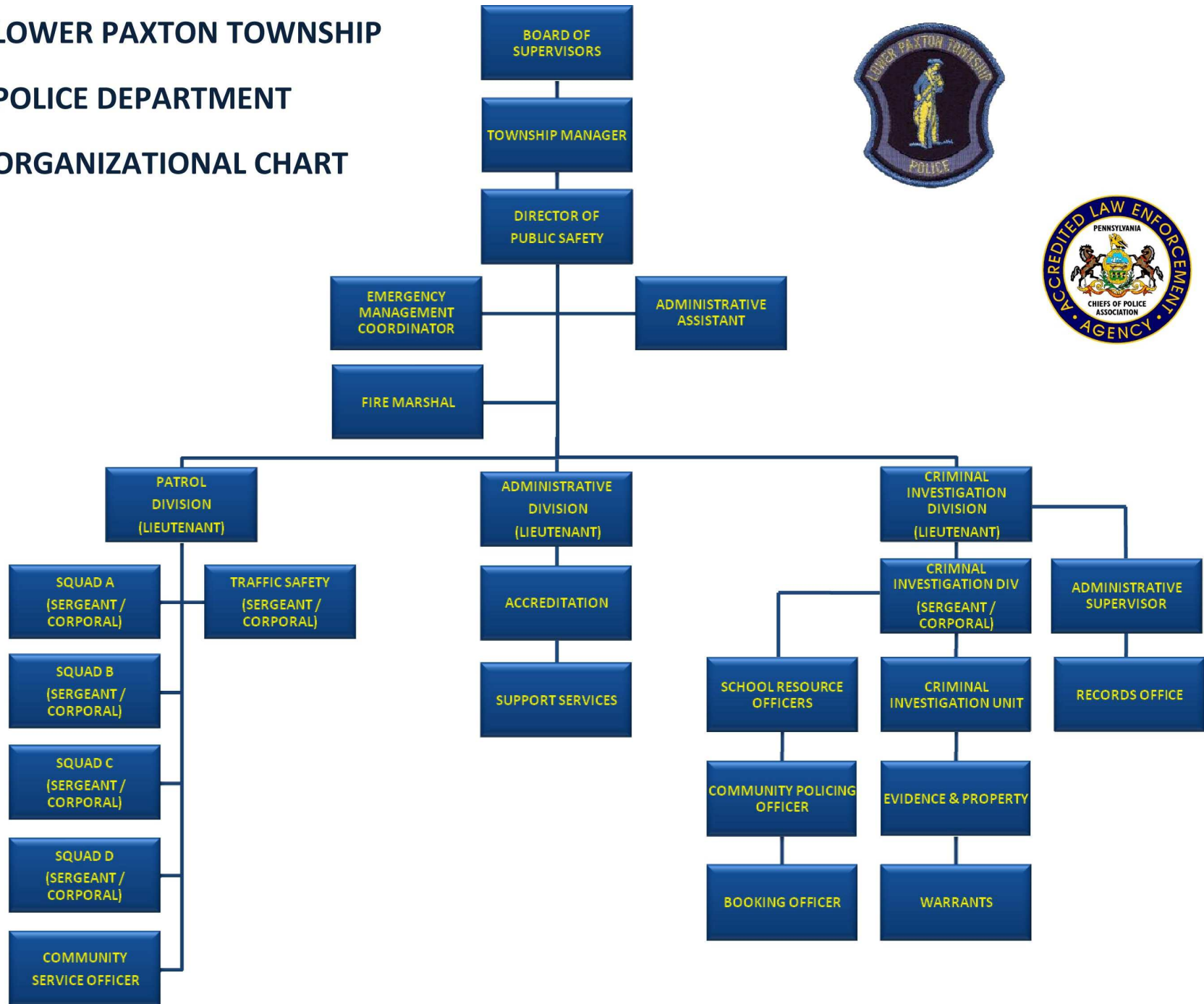
Edith Canaguier

Records Clerks

COMMUNITY SERVICES

CSO Charles Grubb

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



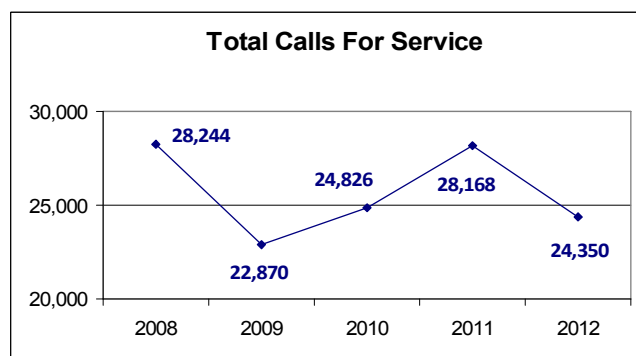
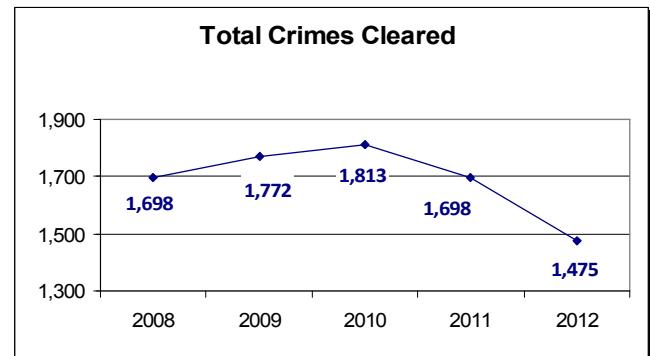
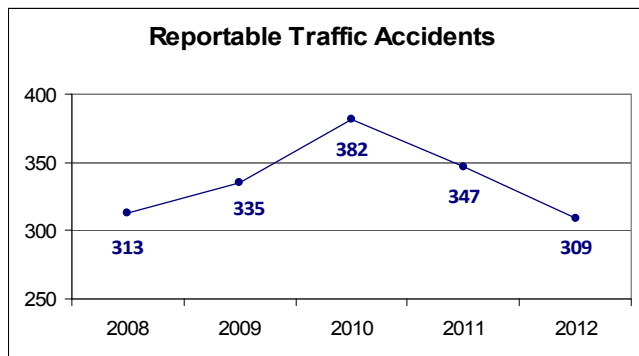
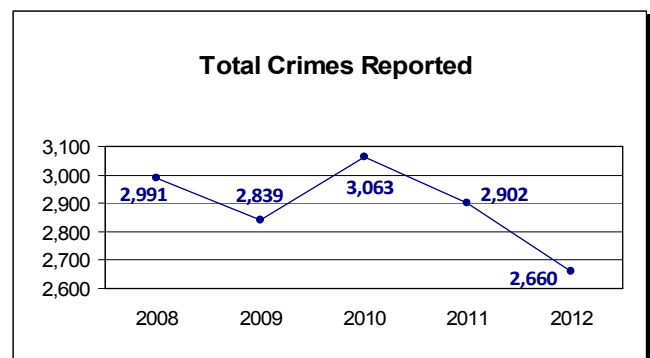
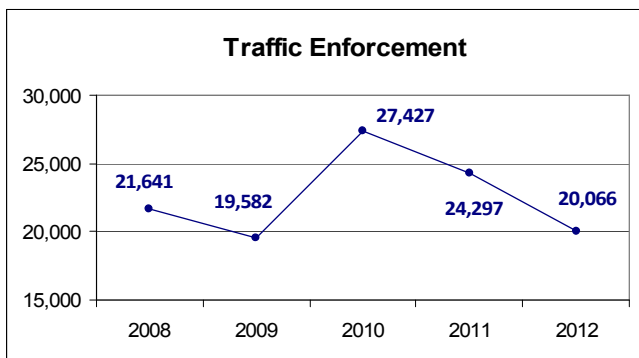
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Officers of the Lower Paxton Police Department responded to 2,660 criminal offenses in 2012 as compared to 2,902 criminal offenses in 2011. Through investigation, officers cleared 1,475 crimes or 56% of all crimes reported. The average clearance rate for police agencies in the Northeastern United States is approximately 40-42%.

The number of reportable traffic accidents; those involving death, injury, or substantial damage, decreased from 347 in 2011 to 309 in 2012, which is a 10.95% decrease.

Traffic enforcement continues to be a primary focus of the Department. Enforcement action includes the issuance of traffic citations, parking tickets, written warnings, and faulty equipment cards. Total traffic enforcement for 2012 was 20,066 as compared to 24,297 in 2011 with nearly 14,000 traffic stops resulting in warning notices only. Some of this decrease is attributed to officers being assigned to neighborhoods in an effort to reduce residential burglaries and to address other resident concerns.

The total calls for service decreased from 28,168 in 2011 to 24,350 in 2012.





Actual Offenses: Part I & Part II Crimes
LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
 For The Year: 2012

Part I Crimes Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2012	Actual Offenses 2011	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2012	Percent of Change in Clearances 2011-2012
01A-Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	-100.00	0	-100.00
02A-Rape by Force	11	10	10.00	7	0
02B-Assault to Rape - Attempts	1	0	N/A	1	N/A
03A-Robbery Firearm	15	14	7.14	4	0
03B-Robbery Knife or Cutting Instrument	1	1	0	1	0
03C-Robbery Other Dangerous Weapon	5	1	400.00	3	N/A
03D-Robbery Strong Arm(Hands, Feet, Etc.)	24	17	41.18	14	16.67
04A-Assault Firearm	8	2	300.00	6	200.00
04B-Assault Knife or Cutting Instrument	6	5	20.00	6	0.00
04C-Assault Other Dangerous Weapon	7	7	0.00	7	0.00
04D-Assault Hands, Fist, Feet, Etc.	36	61	-40.98	40	-33.33
05A-Burglary Forcible Entry	77	80	-3.75	14	-66.67
05B-Burglary Unlawful Entry - No Force	71	79	-10.13	23	0
05C-Burglary Attempted Forcible Entry	17	46	-63.04	1	-95.00
060-Larceny-Theft	862	973	-11.41	372	-5.1
07A-Motor Vehicle Theft - Autos	13	36	-63.89	7	-36.36
07B-Motor Vehicle Theft - Trucks and Buses	1	2	-50.00	0	-100.00
07C-Motor Vehicle Theft - Other Vehicles	3	2	50.00	1	N/A
090-Arson	8	8	0.00	1	-66.67
Total Part I	1,166	1,345	-13.31%	509	-14.02%
Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2012	Actual Offenses 2011	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2012	Percent of Change in Clearances 2011-2012



Part II Crimes Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2012	Actual Offenses 2011	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2012	Percent of Change in Clearances 2011-2012
04E-Other Assaults - Not Aggravated	146	166	-12.05	137	-6.80
100-Forgery and Counterfeiting	33	34	-2.94	14	55.56
110-Fraud	301	239	25.00	121	35.96
120-Embezzlement	0	2	-100.0	0	-100
130-Stolen Prop., Rec., Posses., Buying	3	7	-57.14	3	-62.50
140-Vandalism	257	278	-7.55	36	-10.00
150-Weapons, Carrying, Posses, Etc.	10	12	-16.67	10	-16.67
160-Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	1	1	0.0	2	N/A
170-Sex Offenses (Except 02 and 160)	30	29	3.45	15	-53.13
18A-Drug Sale/Mfg - Opium - Cocaine	4	4	0.00	3	-25.00
18B-Drug Sale/Mfg – Marijuana	10	8	25.00	8	-20.00
18C-Drug Sale/Mfg – Synthetic	7	1	600.00	7	250.00
18D-Drug Sale/Mfg - Other	2	1	100.00	1	0
18E-Drug Possession - Opium - Cocaine	9	8	12.50	10	25.00
18F-Drug Possession - Marijuana	60	63	-4.76	59	-6.35
18G-Drug Possession - Synthetic	0	1	-100.00	0	-100.00
18H-Drug Possession - Other	24	19	26.32	23	21.05
200-Offenses Against Family & Children	5	2	150.00	4	300.00
210-Driving Under the Influence	135	162	-16.67	136	-15.53
220-Liquor Law	15	28	-46.43	16	-42.86
230-Drunkenness	27	34	-20.59	26	-23.53
240-Disorderly Conduct	263	324	-18.83	223	-23.63
250-Vagrancy	6	3	100.00	0	N/A
260-All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	146	133	9.77	112	0.90
Total Part II	1,494	1,557	-4.05.	966	-9.89
Part I & Part II Crimes Classification of Offenses	Actual Offenses 2012	Actual Offenses 2011	Percent of Change	Offenses Cleared 2012	Percent of Change in Clearances 2011-2012
Total Part I & Part II Crimes	2,660	2,902	-8.34%	1,475	-11.36%

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Services Division is the largest division within the Police Department. Lieutenant Ronald Gramigni is the division commander. The division was staffed with four sergeants, four corporals, and twenty officers in 2012. There are 4 patrol platoons with a sergeant, a corporal, and five officers assigned to each platoon.

While every officer of the Department is sworn to protect life and property, prevent crime, and arrest violators of the law, it is the members of the patrol division that mainly accomplish these goals through routine patrol of geographically assigned zones. Patrol officers are the “backbone” of any police department and they respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service, investigate traffic collisions, enforce vehicle laws, and handle any other requests for police services. Patrol officers also participated in the school lunch program, assisted at many community functions, lectured at the Citizens and Youth Academy’s throughout 2012.

The Traffic Safety Unit is a specialty unit within the Patrol Division. Sgt. Tom Waller is assigned as the unit supervisor. Cpl. Tim Puchalski, Officers Donald McCurdy, Kevin Roland, Gregory Geib, and Brian McIntyre are assigned to the unit. The Unit’s primary task is to reduce traffic accidents thru enforcement, education, and traffic engineering studies. The unit is also responsible for investigating all fatal traffic crashes that occur in the Township. Unit officers also investigate many of the minor non-reportable crashes that occur in the Township.

The responsibilities of the unit are not limited to accident investigation. Unit members also conduct traffic engineering studies and surveys to evaluate current and projected traffic conditions. The surveys determine whether improvements or corrections are necessary at specific intersections, within residential developments, or along roadway segments.

Members of the Traffic Safety Unit also coordinate and implement selective traffic enforcement details at locations which are experiencing a significant vehicle or pedestrian accident history. The Unit conducted 457 selective traffic enforcement details in 2012. As part of our endeavor to reduce speeding problems, the Department utilizes two state of the art speed-warning trailers. The trailers are placed at locations with a high incidence of speeding with the hope of gaining voluntary compliance. The speed-warning trailers were deployed on 338 occasions during 2012.

The Traffic Unit also develops and presents safety programs to various community groups, schools, the Youth Police Academy, and the Citizens Police Academy. These programs are designed to create increased driver safety awareness among drivers of all ages.

The Traffic Unit is also responsible for overseeing all aspects of the School Crossing Guard program. Officer Roland coordinates the hiring, training, and scheduling of all school crossing guards in the Township. The crossing guards ensure that the students who walk to and from school each day can do so as safely as possible.

The Traffic Safety Unit will continue to strive to improve pedestrian and traffic safety within the Township and reduce the number of traffic accidents. The Department investigated a total of 774 traffic collisions during 2012 as compared to 920 in 2011. A breakdown of the total number of motor vehicle accidents investigated yielded the following results: 309 reportable accidents investigated in 2012 as compared to 347 in 2011. Reportable collisions decreased 11 % from the previous year. Reportable accidents are those vehicle crashes that involve injury, death, or

require the towing of a vehicle from the accident scene. Officers investigated 465 non-reportable accidents in 2012 and 573 in 2011. There were 2 fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2012 as compared none in 2011.

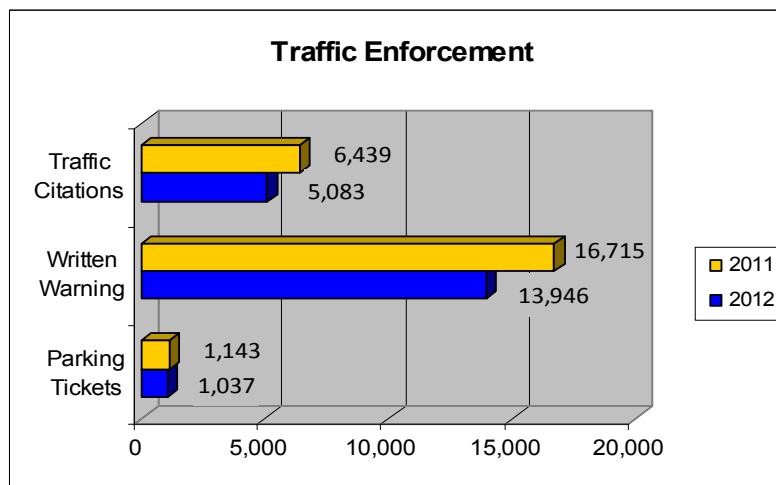
The Traffic Unit's primary focus has been and continues to be accident reduction. This is especially true in those locations identified as high accident locations.

<i>Top Ten Accident Locations</i>	
1.	Union Deposit Road at I-83
2.	4200 block of Union Deposit Road
3.	Allentown Boulevard at Mountain Road
4.	Jonestown Road at Paxton Town Centre / Commons Drive
5.	Union Deposit Road at Briarsdale Road
6.	Jonestown Road at Houcks Road / Prince Street
7.	Colonial Road at Elmerton Avenue
8.	Devonshire Road at Nyes Road
9.	Spring Creek Road at East Park Drive
10.	Blue Ridge Avenue at Blue Ribbon Avenue

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Patrol officers and the members of the Traffic Safety Unit took enforcement action for traffic law violations 20,066 times during 2012 as compared to 24,297 times in 2011. This decrease is in part attributed to our efforts to reduce crime in our neighborhoods through an increased presence. In addition, in an effort to reduce injury crashes, manpower was deployed to those areas where we typically experience high numbers of reportable crashes. During 2012, members of the Department issued 5,083 traffic citations as compared to 6,439 citations issued in 2011. Officers also issued 13,946 written warnings and faulty equipment cards in 2012 as compared to 16,715 in 2011. The Department issued 1,037 parking tickets in 2012 as compared to 1,143 issued in 2011.

A concerted enforcement effort will continue in 2013 to decrease the number of traffic accidents throughout the Township. Our goal is to decrease the number of reportable accidents, with increased enforcement details and speed trailer deployments.



RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

Twelve officers were selected by their supervisors to serve as part of the Department's Rapid Response Team. Patrol Sergeant Tim Hicks is the team leader and oversees training and operations. The members of the team undergo intensive firearms, tactics, and hostage rescue technique training at various schools and large commercial buildings within the Township. Team members have access to ballistic shields, tactical rifles, and ballistic helmets.

When an active shooter situation begins, it is imperative that the first police responders take immediate action to pursue and make contact with the shooter in order to save lives. In active shooter incidents, officers are trained to move rapidly through unsecured areas, even bypassing the injured, in an effort to end the shooting as quickly as possible. Experience has proven that it is absolutely necessary that officers stay focused and intent on locating the active shooter and end the shooting, rather than stop to aid victims, or become a victim themselves.

The Rapid Response Team is not meant to replace the use of the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team (CRT), but rather respond quickly and confine or neutralize the threat.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Criminal Investigation Division provides specialized investigative support to the Patrol Division. The Division is under the command of Lieutenant Gary Seefeldt. Members of the unit perform both initial criminal investigations and follow-up investigations involving adults and juveniles. Detectives conduct initial investigations of serious crimes, and conduct follow-up investigations when time, geography, or manpower restraints prevent patrol from continuing the investigation.

The Criminal Investigations Unit utilizes a case management system to effectively manage criminal investigations conducted by both detectives and patrol officers. Other major functions of the division include crime scene processing, evidence and property management, and juvenile justice programs.

The Criminal Investigations Unit is staffed with eight police personnel: a detective sergeant, a detective corporal, five detectives assigned to criminal investigations and one detective assigned to juvenile investigations.

In 2012, detectives were assigned 475 criminal investigations. The detectives made 178 criminal arrests and closed 280 investigations through exceptional clearances. Of the 475 cases assigned, 35.5% were cleared by arrest. Members of the CI Unit applied for more than 75 search warrants during 2011. Cpl. Witmer, the Departments polygraph expert, conducted numerous polygraph examinations for both this agency and surrounding department's.

The Departments warrant officer is also assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division. Officer Dan Smeck is the warrant officer. In 2012 he served 109 criminal warrants, 477 traffic warrants, and 80 non-traffic summary warrants. Warrant Officer Smeck also assisted in 123 fugitive arrests as a member of the United States Marshalls Task Force.

2012 INVESTIGATIONS OF INTEREST

During the summer of 2012, numerous robberies were reported along the Union Deposit Rd. corridor of the Township. On August 7th at about 3:15 AM, the Turkey Hill at 4850 Union Deposit Rd. was robbed at gunpoint. On August 20th, two robberies occurred. A Township resident was robbed at the rear of the Sunoco, 4220 Union Deposit Rd. and, immediately after, the Sunoco was also robbed. On August 26th, a woman in a vehicle was robbed on Michigan Dr. in the Twin Lakes apartment complex. A woman using the drive-up ATM at the M & T Bank, 4206 Union Deposit Rd. was robbed of the cash she had withdrawn from the ATM on September 6th at about 9:52 PM. Investigators began utilizing search warrants, stakeouts, decoy details and roving surveillances to attempt to capture the person or persons responsible for these crimes. On October 16th, a robbery of a gas station occurred in Susquehanna Township that was very similar to the ones in Lower Paxton Township. Following the Susquehanna incident, Detectives were able to piece together the significant amount of information they had developed and did identify the actor in these incidents. Donovan Jemeal McFarland, 20 years of age, of Galion St. in Lower Paxton Township was subsequently arrested and charged with these crimes.

In August of 2012, the Police Department began investigating a report of sexual assault in response to a Dauphin County Children and Youth referral. Investigation revealed that the victim, a Lower Paxton Township resident who was 15 at the time of the commencement of the investigation, disclosed that she had been sexually abused by the youth pastor of a Township church beginning when she was 12 years old. The individual, identified was 26 year old Joshua Mitchell Markelwitz of Enola, served at the church as a youth leader and guitar and music teacher. Following an intensive investigation, Markelwitz was arrested and charged with Rape of a Child, Involuntary Deviate Intercourse with a Child, Involuntary Deviate Intercourse with a Person under 16, Aggravated Indecent Assault of a Child, Aggravated Indecent Assault of a person less than 16, Indecent Assault of a Person less than 13, Indecent Assault of a Person less than 16, Indecent Exposure, Contact/Communication with a Minor, Corruption of Minors and Disseminating Photos/Film of Child Sex Acts.

Following a news release and extensive media coverage of this investigation and arrest, an additional victim came forward and disclosed that she, too, had been a victim of Markelwitz. Based on allegations from that victim and the subsequent investigation, Markelwitz was additionally charged with Photograph/Film/Depiction on a Computer of a Sex Act by a Child, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Corruption of a Minor and Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor.

Detective Corcoran is assigned as the Department's juvenile officer. The Department referred 121 juveniles to the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Office in 2012. The total number of juveniles arrested in 2012 decreased from 625 in 2011 to 442 in 2012, a decrease of 29.3%. Through the efforts of our school resource officers and our juvenile detective we will continue our efforts to reduce juvenile crime.

The Department's Juvenile Alternative Sentencing Program (JASP) continued to be a valuable tool in delinquency prevention in our community. The program was developed to allow police officers to have a positive impact with first time juvenile offenders. The juveniles are assigned a specific number of community service hours that they must complete. The JASP program enables the police to address juvenile crimes without involving the juvenile court system directly, while ensuring community protection, and juvenile accountability, with the end goal of rehabilitation of the juvenile.

PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE

Officer John McPhillips is assigned to the Property and Evidence Unit of the Criminal Investigation Division. The Unit is responsible for the handling, storage, and disposition of all property and evidence seized by police officers. Officer McPhillips is tasked with processing all major crime scenes. He is a member of the Dauphin County Forensic Team, which is a team of highly trained forensic specialists who respond to process major crimes scenes in Dauphin County. The Evidence Unit also maintains a digital photo lab for processing and storing digital images.

The Evidence Unit handled over 13,400 items of evidence during 2012. All property and evidence received is processed and stored, transferred to a crime lab, transferred to county court, released to the owner, turned over to the State, or destroyed. Officer McPhillips processed evidence for 132 crime scenes and attended eleven (11) post-mortem examinations at the Coroner's Office.

RECORDS AND ADMINISTRATION UNIT

The Records and Administrative Unit is a component of the Criminal Investigation Division. It is staffed by civilian personnel who are committed to providing professional service to the public. It maintains all reports generated by officers to include; criminal records, offense and accident reports, traffic citations, parking tickets, and criminal arrest files. The Records Division staff responds to thousands of requests each year for copies of incident and accident reports, criminal records information, criminal history checks, and processing of parking tickets. Records Clerks receive phone calls, enter data, file, scan documents and assist the public at the front window. Secretaries' duties include administration of criminal records, payroll, maintaining attendance records, meeting minutes, and transcription. The Records Unit also tracks important statistical data and officer productivity, which is reviewed quarterly at the Department's staff meetings to accurately measure resource allocation and its effect on crime.

The Records Office is open Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm to assist the citizens of Lower Paxton.

COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

Community Policing Unit members made over 100 community presentations in 2012. They included school presentations, station tours, media events, business and residential security inspections, police recruiting appearances, child identification/fingerprinting events, senior citizen meetings, and presentations to both Boy and Girl Scout organizations.

The School Resource Officer Program (SRO) assigns a police officer to Central Dauphin East High School (CDEHS) and the Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS). The CDEHS SRO is Officer Gareth Kauffman. Officer Chuck Farrell is the SRO for DCTS. During 2012, the SROs were involved in more than 300 incidents. These included criminal arrests, weapons offenses, educational presentations, and counseling sessions. The school resource officers also shared summer school duties at the DCTS.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizen's Police Academy is a ten week program designed to provide adult citizens with a working knowledge of police responsibilities. The academy is modeled after the regular police academy that all officers must attend. The program is not intended to train police officers, but to familiarize citizens with the duties of their Police Department. The program involves a mix of lecture and hands-on training. Participants also take field trips to several county facilities such as the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency, Dauphin County Prison, and the Morgue.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch Program is one of the most effective and least costly ways to address crime and the fear of crime in neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Watch Program is one of the oldest crime prevention programs in the country, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer. At the present time, the Department works closely with seven neighborhood watch groups in the Township providing them with current crime statistics and working together to reduce crime.

NIGHT OUT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Officer luAnna Brook, with the assistance of Officer Ralph Palm, organized the 13th Annual Night Out for Public Safety at George Park. There were more than 50 exhibitors at this year's event. Displays included a scavenger hunt for kids, numerous family games and activities, pony rides, fire department vehicle rescue demonstration, concert band, and the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team. The venue is an exceptional means for police and other emergency response providers to interact with the community. Returning for the 2012 event was a portable smoke trailer, where visitors learned to survive in a smoke filled structure. The fire department displays were manned and presented by members of the Lower Paxton Township fire companies.

Although the Police Department spearheads this event, it has become a cooperative endeavor with South Central EMS and the Paxtonia, Linglestown, and Colonial Park Fire Companies.



YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

For the seventh consecutive year the Department sponsored and presented the Lower Paxton Youth Police Academy. Participants in the academy met daily for one week. Students received training in a variety of law enforcement topics, to include history of policing, evidence and crime scene processing, patrol work, investigative techniques, traffic enforcement, and firearms training.

Students experienced weapons qualifications and witnessed demonstrations by the Crisis Response Team. In 2011 we added a physical fitness training and military drill instruction section and that was again popular with the 2012 students. At the conclusion of the academy, each participant left with a greater understanding of the police career and its associated demands and rewards. This project has become one of the Community Policing Unit's greatest community outreach programs along with the Citizens Police Academy.



ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division is commanded by Lt. Mark Zerbe. The Division conducts internal inspections and audits in accordance with the directives of the Director of Public Safety. The purpose is to ensure that agency personnel and units are in compliance with established policy and procedure. Lt. Zerbe works in concert with the Director of Public Safety to ensure that policies and resources are adequate to attain Department goals. In addition, Lt. Zerbe works closely with the Director of Public Safety to identify deficiencies in training, morale, supervision, and discipline. Lt. Zerbe also conducts all internal affairs investigations and maintains an extensive database to ensure that all complaints against officers are properly and fairly adjudicated. In addition, Lt. Zerbe works closely with the Director in developing and monitoring the Department's budget.

The Unit is also tasked with maintaining the Department's state accreditation status that was initially achieved in March 2005 through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. Accreditation is the process of conforming internal policy and procedures to established professional standards and objectives. Our most recent re-accreditation assessment was conducted in October of 2011. Three assessors from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) evaluated our facility, policies, and procedures. The assessment team evaluated the Department's compliance with more than 120 professional standards. The team highly recommended the Department for re-accreditation status. PLEAC assessors will return in April 2014 to conduct another re-assessment of the agency.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Lt. Mark Zerbe is responsible for evaluating and identifying the training needs of all members of the Police Department. In 2012, he coordinated the transition from classroom based mandatory training to on-line training. This significantly reduced the time officers spent away from their regular duties and reduced the overall cost of the training. The Department continues to pursue a rigorous training agenda that includes both mandatory in-service training and advanced or specialized training. Continuing education and training is an expected component of any professional's job and the police are no exception. The purpose of training is to meet the needs of the Department while enhancing the personal and professional development of every member. Providing officers and employees with the best and most up-to-date training is considered good risk management and good risk management involves keeping the knowledge and skills of all personnel current. Keeping this in mind, training in 2012 was again expanded with the goal of improving the operational and technical skills of our officers.

The Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) requires that all newly hired officers who have not been previously certified in Pennsylvania attend a 754 hour police training academy. New officers receive extensive classroom and hands-on training in criminal law, traffic law, firearms, criminal investigation, and driving techniques. They are also required to pass a strenuous physical agility test prior to graduation from the academy. Upon successful completion of the basic academy, officers are then assigned to a veteran field training officer for a minimum of 528 working hours of additional field training. Officers must successfully complete the field training program before being released on their own.

MPOETC also mandates that municipal officers remain current with legal updates and changes to other aspects of the job. As a result, each officer must complete 16 hours of update training and

obtain a minimum passing score of 70% on the written exams each year to maintain certification. The Department hosts this training several times a year in its state-of-the-art training room. Several Lower Paxton officers are certified MPOETC instructors and are tasked with conducting in-service training in the areas of firearms, use of force, pursuit driving, First Aid, CPR, and AED certification. Division commanders, in conjunction with the Director of Public Safety, are constantly reviewing options for new and improved in-service training for both sworn and non-sworn members of the police department.

The primary focus of specialized training remains the professional development of all members so that personal career goals may be realized. Some examples of the specialized training received in 2012 include; response to an active shooter, SWAT training, basic and advanced police executive development, emergency vehicle operation, response to incidents of terrorism, incident command, and hostage negotiation training. All specialized training is aimed at providing operational readiness that will enable officers to provide the best possible service to the residents of Lower Paxton. In total, officers received nearly 1,500 hours of training in 2012.

In keeping with the Department's Mission Statement, we endeavor to be the best provider of municipal law enforcement services in the Commonwealth. To do this, we must have the best trained and educated personnel possible.

POLICE HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard consists of seven members representing each of the three Divisions. The Honor Guard is commanded by Lieutenant Zerbe and its members include: Corporal Todd Witmer, Officer Zach Fehrenbach, Corporal Tom Bell, Corporal Rich Needham and Sergeant Justin DePasqua. The Honor Guard was initially created to honor deceased police officers. Unit members serve as pall bearers and conduct flag presentations at funerals. The unit also participates in many community events, ceremonies, parades, and has posted the colors at two sporting events. The Honor Guard has marched in the annual Linglestown Memorial Day Parade and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Harrisburg. The Honor Guard received its formal training from the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard. The training consisted of basic drill maneuvers, flag folding, funeral protocol, and posting of colors.